

This distinctive stellate-pubescent, round-fruited species is closely related to *C. pittieri* Standl., from which it differs by much larger and much more open inflorescences, larger flowers (15 mm vs. 10 mm diameter), shorter (20–23 vs 23–32 mm) but more abundant stamens (28–32 vs 16), and much thicker, leathery, more oblong, more abruptly acuminate or rounded leaves that are characteristically yellow-green beneath. The four nectariferous scales are much like those of *C. pittieri* in size and shape.

This species was first brought to my attention through one of Alwyn Gentry's excellent Kodachrome slides, which I was unable to identify to species, especially since the specimens of that collection were all lost when that expedition's presses caught on fire. Soon, however, Dr. R. L. Dressler sent a specimen that matched the picture; and two years later, the three collectors of the type, all former students of mine, collected material which beautifully matched the photograph of the lost original collection.

It is truly remarkable that still another endemic *Capparis* has appeared from the Isthmus of Panama, in addition to the incredible *C. mirifica* Standl. and the ecologically remarkable "detritophilous" *C. antonensis* Woods., which, like *C. panamensis* and *C. pittieri*, grow near the El Llano-Cartí road, northeast and east-northeast of Panama City and close to the Panama Canal, one of the supposedly best collected areas of the Neotropics.

Like so many others, the species is exceedingly rare and evidently threatened with extinction.

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## ON THE TRUE IDENTITY OF *LAGENANTHUS* *PARVIFLORUS* EWAN (GENTIANACEAE)

During the last three years a team of several students and myself has been engaged in a revision of the genus *Lisianthus* s.l. (*Adenolisianthus*, *Calolisianthus*, *Chelonanthus*, *Helia*, *Irlbachia*, *Lagenanthus*, *Lehmanniella*, *Pagaia*, *Purdieanthus*, and *Symbolanthus*). Dr. R. E. Weaver (Arnold Arboretum) is involved in revisional work of the two remaining genera *Lisianthus* s.s. and *Macrocarpaea*.

Recently we started studying *Lagenanthus*, a genus that had previously been revised by J. Ewan (1948). Ewan distinguished in his publication two species in this genus: 1. *Lagenanthus princeps*, a very spectacular species with 12–14 cm long, slightly inflated flowers. It is restricted to montane forests in Colombia and W. Venezuela, at elevations of 2500–3000 m. 2. *Lagenanthus parviflorus*, a species that occurs in Panama (hills N of El Valle de Antón, prov. Coclé, alt. 1000 m). In the original description Ewan remarked: "The discovery of this second species of *Lagenanthus* is of phytogeographic interest for it points to an

important floristic relationship prevailing between Panamá and the Colombian-Venezuelan borderlands . . . .” Some of the characteristics of *L. parviflorus* are: lepidote-puberulent branches, corky-thickened bark, calyx-lobes filiform-subulate, leaves very finely granulose-roughened. Since none of these characters normally occur in neotropical Gentianaceae, I became highly suspicious about the real identity of *L. parviflorus*, and a study of the type specimen in MO (*P. H. Allen 3601*, 20 July 1946) confirmed my doubts: *L. parviflorus* does not belong in Gentianaceae. The calyx and enclosed ovary are missing from the holotype sheet; they are preserved in spirit separately, and I did not have the pickled parts at my disposal. With some important information thus not available to me, I at first had difficulty in trying to identify the type of *L. parviflorus* to its true taxonomic place. Fortunately I then remembered an epiphytic Rubiaceae that I had collected in Costa Rica in 1974 and that was determined as *Ravnia triflora* Oersted. Comparison of this collection (*Maas 1487*) with the holotype of *L. parviflorus* and consultation of Dwyer’s (1980) description of *Ravnia triflora* in Flora of Panama brought me to the conclusion: *Lagenanthus parviflorus* in reality is *Ravnia triflora* Oersted, and thus belongs in Rubiaceae! The monotypic genus *Ravnia* is restricted to Panama and Costa Rica, and Allen’s collection from El Valle de Antón completely fits in that pattern. Ewan’s remark on the distribution of *Lagenanthus* should be discarded.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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